

VS Code Cheat Sheet

Mac & Windows

Set up once, then write → run → fix. Python for Biologists, Lab 3.

Set up — once

1. In a terminal, **before** VS Code: `uv python install 3.14`, then `uv run python --version` → 3.14
2. **File** → **Open Folder** → New Folder → open it. Always a folder, never a lone file.
3. "Do you trust the authors?" → **Yes** — it's your own folder.
4. Extensions sidebar → search **Python** → Install (publisher: **Microsoft**).
5. Command Palette → **Python: Select Interpreter** → the 3.14 with uv in its path.

Not in the list? Enter interpreter path: `~/.local/bin/python3.14` (Mac) · `%USERPROFILE%\.local\bin\python3.14.exe` (Windows)

Run your code

- ▶ (top right of the editor) — runs the open file
- Or open the terminal `Ctrl`` and type:

```
uv run hello.py      # the Lab 2 way
```

Both should use the same Python — the **status bar** (bottom right) shows which: it should say **3.14**.

Read the squiggles

- **Red** underline — an error; it won't run like this
- **Yellow** underline — a warning; it runs, but look
- **Hover** over it to read the message
- All of them at once: **Problems** panel `⇧⌘M` / `Ctrl+Shift+M`
- A white dot on the file tab = **unsaved** changes

Shortcuts worth learning

ACTION	MAC	WINDOWS
Command Palette — every command	<code>⇧⌘P</code>	<code>Ctrl+Shift+P</code>
Jump to a file	<code>⇧P</code>	<code>Ctrl+P</code>
Show / hide terminal	<code>Ctrl+`</code>	<code>Ctrl+`</code>
Show / hide sidebar	<code>⇧B</code>	<code>Ctrl+B</code>
Save	<code>⇧S</code>	<code>Ctrl+S</code>
Comment / uncomment line	<code>⇧/</code>	<code>Ctrl+/</code>
Indent / un-indent	<code>Tab</code> <code>⇧Tab</code>	<code>Tab</code> <code>Shift+Tab</code>
Move line up / down	<code>⇧↑</code> <code>⇧↓</code>	<code>Alt+↑</code> <code>Alt+↓</code>
Copy line down	<code>⇧⇧↓</code>	<code>Shift+Alt+↓</code>
Select next match	<code>⇧D</code>	<code>Ctrl+D</code>
Find / find in all files	<code>⇧F</code> <code>⇧⇧F</code>	<code>Ctrl+F</code> <code>Ctrl+Shift+F</code>
Rename a variable everywhere	<code>F2</code>	<code>F2</code>
Word wrap on / off	<code>⇧Z</code>	<code>Alt+Z</code>
Zoom in / out	<code>⇧=</code> <code>⇧-</code>	<code>Ctrl+=</code> <code>Ctrl+-</code>
Undo / redo	<code>⇧Z</code> <code>⇧⇧Z</code>	<code>Ctrl+Z</code> <code>Ctrl+Y</code>

In the Command Palette

Open it, then start typing — you never need to remember the menus.

```
Python: Select Interpreter
Python: Run Python File in Terminal
Preferences: Open Settings (UI)
Shell Command: Install 'code' command in PATH # Mac
```

After the last one, `code .` in a terminal opens that folder in VS Code.

When it goes wrong

- **No ▶ button?** Is the Python extension installed, and does the file end in `.py`?
- **Old output?** Save first — or turn on **File** → **Auto Save**.
- **Different results from ▶ and uv run?** Wrong interpreter — check the status bar, then Select Interpreter.
- **File not found?** The terminal runs from the folder you opened — open the project folder, not your whole Documents.